



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

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Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson Names Elisa Laurel Chief of Staff

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Elisa Laurel, a longtime advocate for the business and entrepreneurship community in Inland Southern California, was recently hired as Riverside Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson's new Chief of Staff.

Laurel, who previously served as Public Information Officer for the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), replaces Teresa Rosales, who retired from the City.

"As a resident of Riverside, I am excited to be on the ground floor to assist with many of the challenges and opportunities ahead," Laurel said. "I look forward to working with the community."

Laurel, an Inland Southern California native and Riverside resident, has a diverse background that includes economic development, communications, public relations, and marketing. She led economic development efforts for San Bernardino County's Economic Development Agency, facilitating the creation of over 3,000 jobs and assisted businesses with obtaining over \$4.3 million in tax credits.

Laurel previously worked at UC Riverside's School of Medicine and was part of the initial team when it received its official accreditation. She also worked as an Economic Development Specialist for Riverside County's Economic Development Agency and began her career in public service as a Legislative Intern for former Fifth District County Supervisor, Marion Ashley. She served as a volunteer intern with the City of Riverside's Human Resources Department in 2008.

"Elisa Laurel brings a dynamic professional background that will play a key role in facilitating my office's programs and initiatives intended to propel the City of Riverside forward," Lock Dawson said.

Elisa holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and a Master's in Public Administration from California State University of San Bernardino, as well as a Master's in Corporate Real Estate designation through CoreNet Global.

For the latest information and resources regarding COVID-19 -- www.RiversideCA.gov/COVID-19